

A Word From the Publisher

This is already one of the coldest winters I can remember in a long time. I guess I should have known this was going to happen when we had those four or five days of 20 degree weather at Christmas. I, as a Floridian, am a sissy when it's cold. I like the change in temperatures but it has been cold. Probably another reason so many people are sick. Again, it's cold for a couple of days then we jump back to 78 degrees the next two days. I'm just happy to know that the flu, colds and sinus infections are back. That was probably wrong to say but you must remember for over two years you haven't heard of them. I'm sure our quick changes in temperatures have a lot to do with it.

Each of us goes through 'seasons' of life. Of course, as I get older I am learning a lot about these 'seasons.' Some come in like a nice cool breeze and others come in and take your breath away. It's those times that I've learned to get my focus back on the Lord and keep looking up. It's very easy to get so wrapped up in what's happening that it becomes your every thought. What am I going to do? How can I fix this? What am I going to do next week? It's very easy to become overwhelmed and discouraged. It's those times that I know I can't rely on my own strength. That's when I have to remember to turn it over to the Lord. I know some people think this might be crazy, but I would really be crazy if I didn't do just that! The Bible tells us over and over that "... the Lord is my strength."

I know I am totally guilty of being a fixer. I want to try to fix everything and

make everyone happy. It's very hard to be a fixer in our broken world that's why we must rely on God. I have three devotionals that I like to read from. It's so amazing that two of them have dates and one doesn't. However, these last few weeks, I've just been mesmerized at how God has revealed himself in my life through these readings. It's proof to me that He knows what I'm going through and His mercy and grace are pulling me along each and every day. If not, there is no way I could keep up with what I'm doing. I serve an awesome God and He is right with me encouraging and carrying me.

I share my thoughts because I know there are lots of people that are going through 'seasons' in their lives that might be awesome or they might be challenging. You, too, can find the grace and mercy of my loving God and Savior. You just have to earnestly call out to him in prayer. As the verses in one of my favorite hymns says, "Thou changest not (unlike me), thy compassions they fail not, as Thou hast been thou forever wilt be, morning by morning new mercies I see, all I have needed thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me."

I'm so thankful for a compassionate faithful Father that loves me unconditionally and I thank Him for his provision and direction for every moment of my life. Won't you ask Him in your life today?

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West